

Fairness and justice, those are the principles that should guide our criminal justice system, especially the administration of the death penalty.

Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with Governor Ryan's clemency decision, most Americans should be able to agree that the current system is broken. Even some State prosecutors in Illinois, who disagreed with Ryan's clemency decision, acknowledged that the people of Illinois must debate whether they want a death penalty at all, before debating what kinds of reforms the State should adopt. I think it is important to take a moment to review how Illinois reached this point because I think Congress and the Nation can learn a valuable lesson from Illinois' remarkable experience.

Three years ago, Governor Ryan, a death penalty supporter, first made national headlines when he was the first Governor in the Nation to place a moratorium on executions. He did so after seeing irrefutable evidence that the system in Illinois risks executing the innocent. Since the death penalty was reinstated in Illinois in 1977, Illinois had executed 12 people. But, during this same time, another 13 death row inmates were found to be innocent and to have been wrongfully sentenced to death.

I believe that Governor Ryan has showed uncommon courage. He acknowledged that the system is broken. But he did not stop there. He took steps to address the flaws in his State's death penalty system. First, he took the reasonable and necessary step of placing a moratorium on executions. He then created a blue ribbon commission, including former U.S. Attorney Thomas Sullivan, one of our former colleagues, Senator Paul Simon, and lawyer and novelist, Scott Turow. The Commission included both death penalty proponents and opponents.

Governor Ryan instructed the Commission to review the State's death penalty system and to advise him on how to reduce the risk of executing the innocent and to ensure fairness in the system. After a 2-year long study, the Commission issued a comprehensive report and set forth 85 recommendations for reform of the Illinois death penalty system. These recommendations address difficult issues like inadequate defense counsel, executions of the mentally retarded, coerced confessions, and the problem of wrongful convictions based solely on the testimony of a jailhouse snitch or a single eyewitness. The Commission's work is the first, and, so far, only, comprehensive review of a death penalty system undertaken by a State or Federal Government in the modern death penalty era.

When the Commission released its report last April, Governor Ryan again acted decisively. He supported its recommendations and urged the Illinois State legislature to implement the necessary reforms of the system. Unfortunately, the legislative session ended without the legislature passing

even a single one of the Commission's 85 recommendations.

Faced with the legislature's failure to act to fix the system and the fact that the fate of over 160 death row inmates remained in the balance, Governor Ryan took yet another bold, but reasonable step. He conducted clemency hearings and reviewed the records of each person on death row. He heard from victims' families, from prosecutors, from defense counsel, and from the families of death row inmates. After this careful and painstaking review, he pardoned four men whom he believed had compelling claims of innocence. Unable to conclude that the remaining sentences were not tainted by the problems with the system catalogued by the Commission, he decided to commute them to life in prison without parole.

Governor Ryan's leadership on this issue is a model for the Nation, a legacy that I am convinced will live on long after he leaves office.

He now joins Americans like former Supreme Court Justices Lewis Powell and Harry Blackmun, who supported capital punishment but later in their lives came to re-think their position on the issue.

When the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty as a form of cruel and unusual punishment in 1972 in *Furman v. Georgia*, Justice Powell dissented from the majority position. He supported capital punishment. In fact, he later wrote the decision in *McCleskey v. Kemp* in 1987, which denied a challenge to the death penalty on the grounds that it was applied in a discriminatory manner against African Americans. In 1991, however, Justice Powell told his biographer that he had decided that capital punishment should be abolished.

Late in his career on the Court, Justice Blackmun penned the following eloquent, frequently quoted dissent, in 1994:

From this day forward, I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death. For more than 20 years I have endeavored—indeed, I have struggled—along with a majority of this Court, to develop procedural and substantive rules that would lend more than the mere appearance of fairness to the death penalty endeavor. Rather than continue to coddle the Court's delusion that the desired level of fairness has been achieved and the need for regulation eviscerated, I feel morally and intellectually obligated simply to concede that the death penalty experiment has failed.

Like Justice Powell, Justice Blackmun, and now Governor Ryan, it is my hope that other judges and public officials will take the time to reexamine the ultimate punishment our society imposes.

Governor Ryan acted only after a lengthy study and a consideration of all the alternatives. In a civilized country committed to equal justice, I hope that other public officials, including my colleagues here in the Congress, can be strong enough to take the steps that Governor Ryan took to reconsider

the flawed death penalty system in this country.

Last week, the University of Maryland released a study showing significant racial and geographic disparities in the Maryland death penalty system. While this study is not a comprehensive review of the entire Maryland death penalty system, its disturbing findings should be reason enough to continue the moratorium on executions until the concerns raised by the study are addressed.

More importantly, we know that the Illinois and Maryland experiences are not unique. With over 100 innocent people on death row across the Nation later exonerated in the modern death penalty era, some just days before they were scheduled to be executed, we know that the administration of the death penalty nationwide is seriously flawed.

It is past time for Congress to meet its responsibility of ensuring fairness and justice in our criminal justice system, especially concerning the administration of the death penalty. Congress should place a moratorium on Federal executions and urge the States to do the same, while a National Commission on the Death Penalty reviews the fairness of the death penalty systems at the Federal and State levels. I urge my colleagues to support my bill, S. 132, the National Death Penalty Moratorium Act.

Congress has an important responsibility to ensure that innocent people are not executed and that constitutional protections are respected in the administration of capital punishment across the country. Congress should not shirk this responsibility. It is time to take a timeout on executions and to conduct a thorough, top-to-bottom review of the death penalty, not only in Illinois or Maryland, but nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO NORMA S. HOLMGREN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman who has worked by my side for 26 years, Norma Holmgren. Norma has been my Northern Utah Area Director since the day I took office and is now retiring to enjoy the many wonderful things life has to offer. Norma has done an absolutely tremendous job in serving thousands of Utahns who needed assistance, direction, or just a listening ear.

Norma has worked on many important issues affecting our state including health care, private property rights, business expansion, and civic and community affairs. She has been a vital liaison between my office and the leadership of Hill Air Force Base, one of the State's largest employers, and is well respected and admired by the military officers and personnel on the base. Throughout her years of service, she has always conducted herself with professionalism and concern for the people she is serving.

Norma has always played a vital role in many northern Utah communities

serving on various boards and commissions, including the Garland Civic and Home Arts Club and the Box Elder County Fair. She was recognized for her dedication to improving the lives of young people when she was named the 1990 Weber County Youth Community Connection Woman of the Year, a recognition I know she treasures.

Norma has also been a driving force in many of Utah's premier women's organizations, including the National and State Federation of Women's Clubs and the Utah Womens' Legislative Council. In both of these organizations, Norma assumed numerous leadership positions helping to implement policy that directly affected the health and well-being of Utah women.

Norma's love and loyalty for the Republican philosophy has been evident in the many years she has served promoting the ideals and values of the Republican party. She has literally donated thousands of hours to the party, candidates, and campaigns who share her commitment to republican principles. She has served as the President of the Box Elder County Republican Women's Club and in many positions within the Box Elder County Republican Party. I am confident that her service to the Republican party will continue for many years to come.

In addition to the service she has rendered in the community and office, Norma is a loving mother to her son, Randy, and a loving grandmother. In fact, her granddaughter Emily will be joining us on the floor of the Senate as a page next fall. Norma takes great pride in her family and is grateful for the love that they share. She has a keen interest in and love for antiques and has made her home truly a treasure. She has welcomed many people into her home over the years to share with them the history of the antique pieces she has found and lovingly displays.

I am grateful for the service that Norma Holmgren has given to me, to her community, and to the state. She has been by my side from day one and has always been a vital component of my Senate organization. I will miss her tremendously but know that life holds many wonderful things for her to savor and enjoy. Norma Holmgren is a dedicated public servant, loving mother and grandmother, and fervently patriotic American. I want to wish her the very best in retirement and pray for her continued good health, success, and happiness.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CARRINGTON WILLIAMS

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Honorable Carrington Williams, a great Virginian who positively contributed to the Commonwealth as both a public servant and a community leader. It was a sad day in Virginia when Carrington Wil-

liams passed away on August 3, 2002 at the age of 83. Carrington Williams leaves behind him a legacy of service to Virginia and so many worthy causes. I speak today of Carrington Williams not only from the perspective of a grateful Virginian, but also as someone who is proud to have called Carrington a friend.

Carrington Williams was born and died a Virginian. During his life, he served in numerous leadership positions, as well as elected ones. Early in his life, Carrington served the United States in the Army Air Corps. Later on, Mr. Williams was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

What many will remember Carrington for was his tireless commitment to historic preservation. Mr. Williams was the founding Chairman of the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission, which later became the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. Every time one sees the many historic battlefields in Virginia, one should be thankful to Carrington for his commitment to preserving our nation's treasures for many future generations to enjoy and reflect upon.

In addition to these commitments, Carrington served in the positions of chairman of the board of the Washington Airports Task Force, the Dulles Airport Regional Economic Study Commission, and the Western Transportation Corridor Study Commission, and as a member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

While our dear Delegate Carrington Williams is no longer here with us, he will always be remembered by the thousands of Virginians touched by his life. I appreciate having the opportunity to honor Carrington and my thoughts are with his wife, Doreen, and his son and stepdaughter who carry on with his blood and spirit.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE SOLOMAN BLATT, JR.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and salute a dear friend of mine and tireless servant of the American people for his long and distinguished service on the Budget Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. After 25 years of service, the Honorable Solomon Blatt, Jr., Senior Judge for the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, will step down as a member of the Budget Committee of the Judicial Conference.

Effective January 20, 2003, the longest tenure of any current member of any Judicial Conference Committee, as well as one of the longest tenures during any era, will come to an end and both the judiciary and the Congress will have lost a tremendous resource.

Ever mindful of the fiscal realities facing Congress and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary, and Related

Agencies, Judge Blatt has always demonstrated the unique ability to strike a balance, articulating well the most critical needs of the judiciary while recognizing and appreciating the competing demands the subcommittee faces within its vast jurisdiction. During Judge Blatt's more than 25 years of service on the Budget Committee, the judiciary's budget grew from \$438.5 million in fiscal year 1978, to a request of approximately \$5 billion for fiscal year 2003. But perhaps one of his greatest achievements during his tenure on the Budget Committee was revising the role of the committee from that of simply assembling or adding up the resource requirements coming from the substantive committees of the Judicial Conference, to that of formulating a budget request that was fiscally responsible and politically acceptable outside the judiciary, while also addressing the immediate needs of the judiciary's burgeoning workload.

Judge Blatt is an honest broker. Appropriations Subcommittee allocations get tighter and tighter each year, pitting the needs of executive branch agencies against the needs of the judiciary. But I always knew when Judge Blatt came to me concerned about a particular aspect of the Federal courts, it was real, and I would do my best to accommodate his request.

Mr. President, the judiciary, and indeed the Congress, will always be indebted to Judge Blatt for his years of service on behalf of the Federal court system. I know that I will miss his input and candor during our deliberations on funding for the Federal judiciary within the annual Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB STEELE

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor a man who over the course of three generations brought joy into millions of Connecticut homes, Bob Steele. Bob died on Friday, December 6 at the age of 91 after a wonderful life and career on and off the airwaves.

Bob was with WTIC in the weekday early morning slot for an astounding 55 years, from 1936 to 1991. And he even continued doing the show for the past decade, after his official retirement, on the first Saturday of most months. He hosted his last broadcast on November 2 of this year, at age 91.

For all that time, we in Connecticut woke up with Bob, and that made our days a bit brighter. He would talk about the world. He would predict sports scores. He would play from his eclectic collection of music, and whistle some tunes himself. He would carefully pronounce and define the word of the day. He would tell corny jokes, which, I must admit, are my favorite kind. He would tell us the secret to making great scrambled eggs. He would remind us not to leave the house without our keys.

The broadcast I have described may sound more fitting for a small town